distribution of kerosene within the State is the responsibility of State Government. The monthly allocation of kerosene to the State of Kerala is 25816 M.T.

Requests are received for additional allocation of kerosene from time to time. Kerosene is a deficit product in the country, and on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy, the distribution has to be judicious.

**Seeking permission by Private Refiners to start their own Sale Outlets**

3008. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any private refiners submitted proposals seeking permission to start their own sale outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether they would start petrol pumps in backward areas;

(d) whether Government would deregulate petroleum products before the announced schedule; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) Government have permitted marketing of decontrolled products through private and joint sector. Marketing of kerosene and LPG is permitted through private and joint sector under Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS).

The petroleum products under the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) are marketed by public sector oil marketing companies only. These products are Motor Spirit, High Speed Diesel, LPG(Domestic), SKO (PDS), Aviation Turbine Fuel.

**Proposal for Direct Marketing right of the Petroleum Products**

3009. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any programme of deregulation of petroleum products before 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;